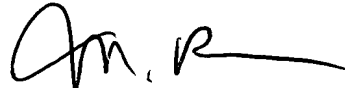


**REMARKS**

Claims 1-17 are pending in this application. By this Preliminary Amendment, the Abstract and specification are replaced with an amended Abstract and substitute specification, and claims 1-17 are amended.

Prompt and favorable examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff  
Registration No. 27,075

Michael Britton  
Registration No. 47,260

JAO:MQB/ale

Attachments:

Amended Abstract  
Substitute Specification  
Marked-up Copy of Specification

Date: May 18, 2004

**OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC**  
**P.O. Box 19928**  
**Alexandria, Virginia 22320**  
**Telephone: (703) 836-6400**

<p>DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE AUTHORIZATION Please grant any extension necessary for entry; Charge any fee due to our Deposit Account No. 15-0461</p>
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